

**San Bernardino County
Behavioral Health Commission
Executive Session
June 2, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Members Present: Chris Massa, Ed O'Brien, David Caine, Jane Ann Godager, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, May Farr, Michael Grabhorn, Monica Wilson, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Troy Mondragon, Veatrice Jews

Excused Absences: Akin Merino, Catherine Inscore

Guests: CaSonya Thomas, Veronica Kelley, Debi Pasco, Esmeralda Sanchez, Margaret Rochelle, Cynthia White, Nancy Olsen, Jennifer Pacheco, Sharon Nevins

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary May Farr called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and self-introductions followed.

Tab 1: Review Minutes from May 5, 2016

APPROVED with corrections

Motion/Second: David Caine/ Chris Massa

AYES: Michael Grabhorn, Susan McGee-Stehsel, David Caine, Troy Mondragon, Jennifer Spence-Carpenter, May Farr, Christopher Massa, Jane Ann Godager

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Akin Merino, Catherine Inscore, Ed O'Brien, Monica Wilson (at time of vote)

Tab 2: Travel and Attendance – October 2016: Gathering on Mental Health and the Church - David Caine, Veatrice Jews, Monica Wilson and Troy Mondragon requested to attend. Board of Supervisor approval required for out of county travel. Debi will process accordingly.

Tab 3: During BHC Strategic Planning, there was a proposal to offer Continuing Education Units (CEU) during Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) educational presentations. Director CaSonya Thomas suggested that requirements to offer CEU may impede the ability to have lengthy open discussions. Due to stringent guidelines that must be followed to provide CEU, the BHC will yield to the Director.

The BHC agreed to go dark in August 2016. Debi Pasco will add to the July agenda as an action item.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Caine reported on Laura's Law positive statistics and discussed whether this may be something the Commission and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) should look into. Director Thomas stated that DBH continues to explore Laura's Law and evaluate new information. With the approval of the BHC, DBH can provide an update on recent research. We welcome open dialogue.

Vice Chair O'Brien discussed the importance of the warm handoff for consumers from hospital care to outpatient. He will request a report of improvements and outcomes from DBH in the near future.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Thomas thanked the Commissioners for attending the May Mental Health Month activities. Director Thomas briefly discussed the Governor's May Revise:

- No Place Like Home – Repurposes \$130 million annually of Mental Health Services Act monies for housing bonds. It would take a 2/3 vote by the legislature to revise the Act.

- Continuum of Care Reform – Elevates services provided to children who reside in group homes. DBH and Children and Family Services are working closely to position ourselves for the implementation date of January 2017. To date, we have received very little guidance from the state.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments provided.

Tab 4: Accessing Crisis Services presented by Nancy Olsen and Cynthia White of DBH Crisis Services:

Director Thomas stated today's presentation will focus on crisis services in the Morongo Basin. Cynthia White discussed enhanced services and outreach efforts by Valley Star Crisis Walk-In Center (CWIC):

- Hired a dedicated outreach worker to focus on both Yucca Valley and Victorville CWIC's and the Yucca Valley Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Center
- Distributed over 8,000 brochures to both desert communities in the past 20 months
- Have met with the military base in 29 Palms to advise of services for family members, subsequent collaboration to screen children of military members
- Have seen an increase in referrals from primary care physicians
- Provided a 4-hour workshop to CHP office to communicate services and tips to identify mental health symptoms
- Peer and Family Advocates are available to assist clients with paperwork and help them feel comfortable

New DBH internet website design for easy identification of crisis services is currently in process.

Nancy Olsen discussed services provided by the DBH Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT):

- Mobile CCRT's locations in the County: East Valley, West Valley, High Desert; one (1) CCRT staff in the Morongo Basin and one (1) Mental Health Specialist, trained by CCRT in Crisis Intervention, for the Needles Clinic.
- Approved to begin recruiting for graveyard shift in three areas of the county effective 7/1/16

Commissioner Caine mentioned that Twin Peak Sheriff find it difficult to get CCRT staff to come to the mountain area. Nancy Olsen responded that due the SB 82 Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant, DBH has hired 22 Triage Engagement Support Team (TEST) staff that are co-located in police and sheriff stations, Probation, Public Defender and West Valley Detention Center. An additional five (5) TEST staff are currently in the hiring process to be co-located at the Twin Peaks and Big Bear Sheriff stations.

Vice Chair O'Brien summarized what we know went wrong in that a community member, well versed in DBH services, had trouble accessing appropriate services for a family member:

- Phone number on website/flyers were outdated (from previous vendor)
- Released from the hospital without a warm handoff to outpatient services

Director Thomas responded that DBH continues to look at system improvements and community outreach. Cynthia White is looking into the ARMC discharge plan issue.

Vice Chair O'Brien complimented the Director for the follow-up and openness on this issue. We have heard about many positive services today - enhancement of CWIC services in Morongo Basin, TEST staff in the mountain areas and CCRT graveyard shift.

ADJOURNMENT: Today's meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Monica Wilson
Chair

Esmeralda Sanchez
Recorder